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The Supreme Court upholds a gun control law intended to protect domestic violence victims

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld a federal gun control law that is intended to protect victims of domestic violence. In their first Second Amendment case since they expanded gun rights in 2022, the justices ruled 8-1 in favor of a 1994 ban on firearms for people under restraining orders to stay away from their spouses or partners. The justices reversed a ruling from the federal appeals court in New Orleans that had struck down the law.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the court, said the law uses "common sense" and applies only "after a judge determines that an individual poses a credible threat" of physical violence. Justice Clarence Thomas, the author of the major 2022 Bruen ruling in a New York case, dissented.

President Joe Biden, who has been critical of previous high-court rulings on guns, abortion and other hot-button issues, praised the outcome. "No one who has been abused should have to worry



Supreme Court Police officers stand on duty outside of the Supreme Court building on Thursday, June 13, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

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about their abuser getting a gun," Biden said in a statement. "As a result of today's ruling, survivors of domestic

violence and their families will still be able to count on critical protections, just as they have for the past three decades."

Last week, the court overturned a Trump-era ban on bump stocks, the rapid-fire gun accessories used in the

deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

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SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
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The Supreme Court upholds a gun control law intended to protect domestic violence victims

Continued from Front

The court ruled that the Justice Department exceeded its authority in imposing that ban.

Friday's case stemmed directly from the Supreme Court's Bruen decision in June 2022. A Texas man, Zackey Rahimi, was accused of hitting his girlfriend during an argument in a parking lot and later threatening to shoot her.

At arguments in November, some justices voiced concern that a ruling for Rahimi could also jeopardize the background check system that the Biden administration said has stopped more than 75,000 gun sales in the past 25 years based on domestic violence protective orders.

The case also had been closely watched for its potential to affect cases in which other gun ownership laws have been called into question, including in the high-profile prosecution of Hunter Biden. Biden's son was convicted of lying on a form to buy a firearm while he was addicted to drugs. His lawyers have signaled they will appeal.

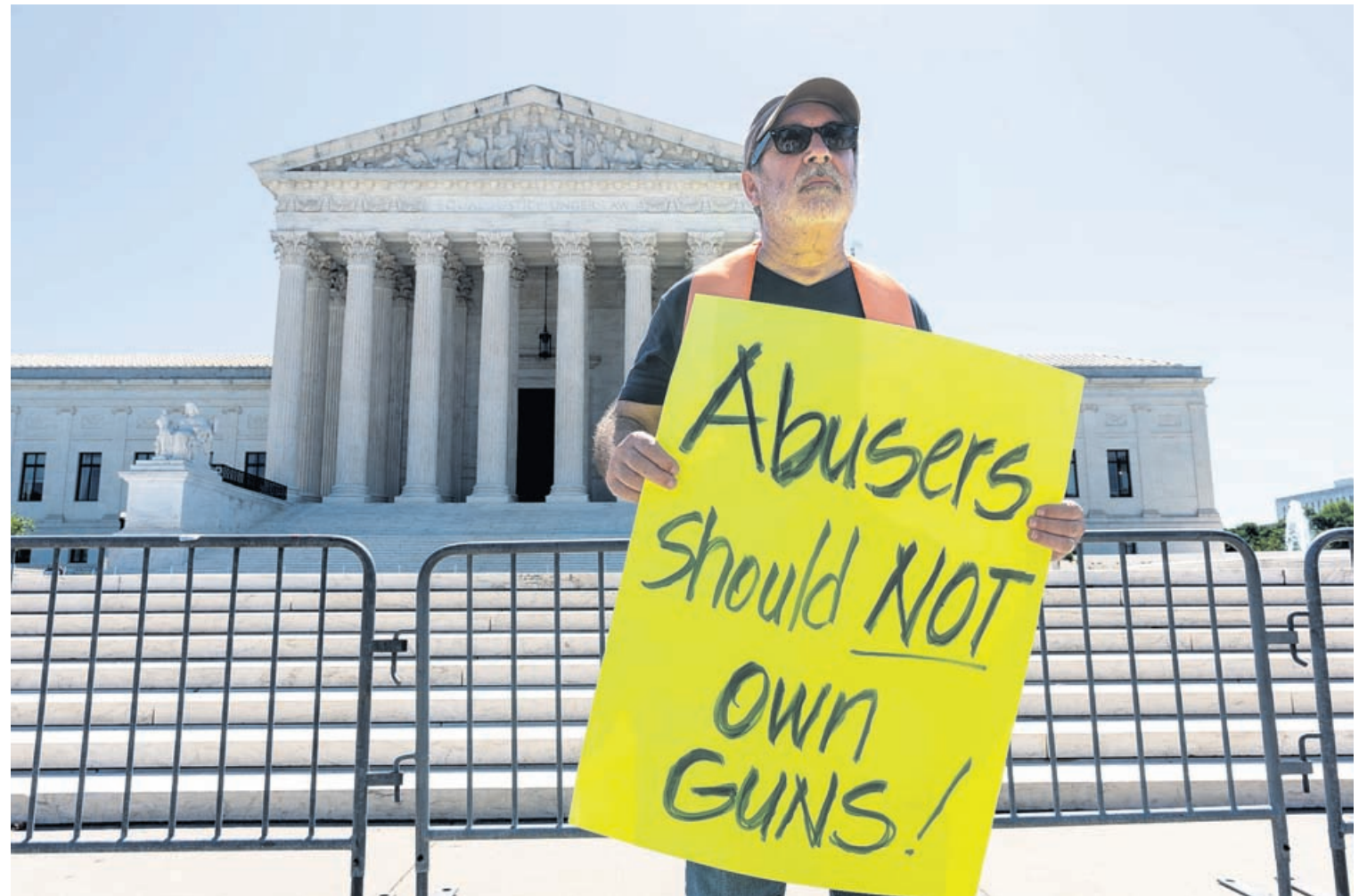
A decision to strike down the domestic violence gun law might have signaled the court's skepticism of the other laws as well. But Friday's decision did not suggest that the court would necessarily uphold those law either.

The justices could weigh in soon in one or more of those other cases.

Many of the gun law cases grow out of the Bruen decision. That high court ruling not only expanded Americans' gun rights under the Constitution but also changed the way courts are supposed to evaluate restrictions on firearms.

Roberts turned to history in his opinion. "Since the founding, our nation's firearm laws have included provisions preventing individuals who threaten physical harm to others from misusing firearms," he wrote.

Some courts have gone too far, Roberts wrote, in applying Bruen and other gun



Rev. Patrick Mahoney demonstrates as the Supreme Court announces decisions, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, June 21, 2024.

Associated Press

rights cases. "These precedents were not meant to suggest a law trapped in amber," he wrote.

In dissent, Thomas wrote, the law "strips an individual of his ability to possess firearms and ammunition without any due process."

The government "failed to produce any evidence" that the law is consistent with the nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation, he wrote.

"Not a single historical regulation justifies the statute at issue," Thomas wrote.

Seven of the nine justices wrote opinions in the guns case spanning 94 pages, mainly focused on the proper use of history in evaluating gun restrictions and other limitations on constitutional rights.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote that Roberts' opinion "permits a historical inquiry calibrated to reveal something useful and transferable to the present day, while the dissent would make the historical inquiry so exacting as to be useless." She was among the

three liberal justices who dissented in the Bruen case. Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was part of the Bruen majority, noted that the court probably will have many more cases about the reach of gun rights because "Second Amendment jurisprudence is in its early innings." It was only in 2008 that the court declared for the first time that the Constitution protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms.

Rahimi's case reached the Supreme Court after prosecutors appealed a ruling that threw out his conviction for possessing guns while subject to a restraining order.

Rahimi was involved in five shootings over two months in and around Arlington, Texas, U.S. Circuit Judge Cory Wilson noted.

When police identified Rahimi as a suspect in the shootings and showed up at his home with a search warrant, he admitted having guns in the house and being subject to a domestic violence restraining or-

der that prohibited gun possession, Wilson wrote.

But even though Rahimi was hardly "a model citizen," Wilson wrote, the law at issue could not be justified by looking to history. That's the test Justice Thomas laid out in his opinion for the court in Bruen.

The appeals court initially upheld the conviction under a balancing test that included whether the restriction enhances public safety. But the panel reversed course after Bruen. At least one district court has upheld the law since the Bruen decision.

After the ruling, Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Justice Department "will continue to enforce this important statute, which for nearly 30 years has helped to protect victims and survivors of domestic violence from their abusers."

"As the Justice Department argued, and as the Court reaffirmed today, that commonsense prohibition is entirely consistent with the Court's precedent and

the text and history of the Second Amendment," Garland said in a statement.

Advocates for domestic violence victims and gun control groups had called on the court to uphold the law.

Firearms are the most common weapon used in homicides of spouses, intimate partners, children or relatives in recent years, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guns were used in more than half, 57%, of those killings in 2020, a year that saw an overall increase in domestic violence during the coronavirus pandemic. Seventy women a month, on average, are shot and killed by intimate partners, according to the gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety.

Gun rights groups backed Rahimi, arguing that the appeals court got it right when it looked at American history and found no restriction close enough to justify the gun ban. □

FEMA is ready for an extreme hurricane and wildfire season, but money is a concern, Mayorkas says

By REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Homeland Security Department said Friday that the agency tasked with responding to disasters across the country is prepared as it goes into what is expected to be an intense hurricane and wildfire season but he's concerned about looming budget shortfalls.

As parts of the U.S. are sweltering under potentially record-breaking temperatures, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said extreme heat could qualify as a major disaster under a law governing how the federal government responds to natural disasters but that local communities historically have been able to deal with major heat waves or wildfire smoke without needing federal assistance.

Mayorkas spoke to The Associated Press during a visit to the headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a briefing about the hurricane season, which started on June 1. Experts think this year could be one of the busiest At-



Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, center left, listens as Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator Deanne Criswell speaks during a briefing on the 2024 hurricane and wildfire outlook at FEMA headquarters on Friday, June 21, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

lantic hurricane seasons on record as climate change causes storms to become more intense. Already Tropical Storm Alberto, the season's first named storm, brought heavy rain to parts of Mexico.

Mayorkas said one reason FEMA is prepared is that the agency staff has gotten so

much practice responding to disasters as climate change has intensified.

"They have exercised these muscles regrettably year after year. As the impacts of climate change have been more and more evident, we have seen and experienced increasing frequency and gravity of extreme weather

events," Mayorkas said.

Against that backdrop, the secretary said he was concerned about the size of the agency's disaster relief fund. That's the primary way that FEMA funds its response to hurricanes, wildfires, floods and other disasters.

"We expect the disaster relief fund, which is the critical

fund that we use to resource impacted communities, we expect it will run out by mid-August. And we need Congress to fund the disaster relief fund," he said.

If the fund runs out of money, it doesn't mean the agency doesn't respond to emergencies. Instead, the agency goes into what's called immediate needs funding redirecting money from other programs so it can respond to the most urgent, lifesaving needs. But that can take away money from longer-term recoveries. Much of the United States has been baking in a heat wave, with numerous areas expected to see record-breaking temperatures and hot weather expected to continue through the weekend. The hot start to the summer comes after the U.S. last year experienced the most heat waves since 1936.

With climate change raising temperatures nationwide, advocates and some members of Congress have questioned whether heat waves should be considered natural disasters in the same way hurricanes, tornadoes and floods are. □

Border Patrol reports arrests are down 25% since Biden announced new asylum restrictions

By REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of arrests by Border Patrol agents of people illegally crossing into the United States fell in May to the third lowest of any month during the Biden presidency, while preliminary figures released Thursday show encounters with migrants falling even more in the roughly two weeks since the president announced new rules restricting asylum. The figures are likely welcome news for a White House that has been struggling to show to voters concerned over immigration that it has control of the southern border. But the number of people coming to the border is often in flux, dependent on condi-

tions in countries far from the U.S. and on smugglers who profit from global migration.

Border Patrol made 117,900 arrests of people entering the country between the official border crossing points in May, Customs and Border Protection said in a news release. That's 9% lower than during April, the agency said. The agency said preliminary data since President Joe Biden's June 4 announcement restricting asylum access shows arrests have fallen by 25%. "Our enforcement efforts are continuing to reduce southwest border encounters. But the fact remains that our immigration system is not resourced for what we are seeing," said Troy A. Miller, the acting head of

CBP.

The U.S. has also benefited from aggressive enforcement on the Mexican side of the border, where Mexican authorities have been working to prevent migrants from making their way to the U.S.-Mexico border.

The figures are part of a range of data related to immigration, trade and drug seizures that is released monthly by CBP. The immigration-related figures are closely watched at a time of intense political scrutiny over who is entering the country and whether the Biden administration has a handle on the situation.

Immigration is a top concern for voters, with many saying Biden hasn't been doing enough to secure

the country's borders. Former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president, has made immigration a cornerstone

of his campaign by saying he's going to deport people in the country illegally en masse and take other measures to crack down on immigration. □



A Border Patrol agent checks a migrant seeking asylum before the man is transported and processed, Wednesday, June 5, 2024, near Dulzura, Calif.

Associated Press

FDA OKs first menthol e-cigarettes, citing potential to help adult smokers

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**

AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration on Friday authorized the first menthol-flavored electronic cigarettes for adult smokers, acknowledging that vaping flavors can reduce the harms of traditional tobacco smoking.

The FDA said it authorized four menthol e-cigarettes from Njoy, the vaping brand recently acquired by tobacco giant Altria, which also sells Marlboro cigarettes.

The decision lends new credibility to vaping companies' longstanding claim that their products can help blunt the toll of smoking, which is blamed for 480,000 U.S. deaths annually due to cancer, lung disease and heart disease. E-cigarettes have been sold in the U.S. since 2007 but in recent years their potential benefits for smokers have been overshadowed by their use by adolescents and teens. Parents and anti-tobacco groups immediately criticized

the decision, which follows years of advocacy efforts to keep menthol and other flavors that can appeal to teens off the market.

"This decision could mean we'll never be able to close the Pandora's box of the youth vaping epidemic," said Meredith Berkman, co-founder of Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes. "FDA has once again failed American families by allowing a predatory industry to source its next generation of lifetime customers America's children." Youth vaping has declined from all-time highs in recent years, with about 10% of high schoolers reporting e-cigarette use last year. Of those who vaped, 90% used flavors, including menthol.

All the e-cigarettes previously authorized by the FDA have been tobacco, which isn't widely used by young people who vape. Njoy is one of only three companies that previously received FDA's OK for vaping products. Like those products, two of the Njoy



This image provided by NJOY in 2024 shows packaging for the company's menthol-flavored electronic cigarette product.

Associated Press

menthol varieties come as cartridges that plug into a

reusable device that heats liquid nicotine, turning it into an inhalable aerosol. The other two Njoy menthol products are disposable e-cigarettes. Njoy's products accounted for less than 3% of U.S. e-cigarette sales in the past year, according to retail data from Nielsen. Vuse, owned by Reynolds American, and Juul control about 60% of the market, while hundreds of disposable brands account for the rest. Most teens who vape use disposable e-cigarettes, including brands like Elf Bar, which come in flavors such as watermelon and blueberry ice. Altria's data showed Njoy e-cigarettes helped smokers reduce their exposure to the harmful chemicals in traditional cigarettes, the FDA said. The agency stressed the products are neither safe nor "FDA approved," and that people who don't smoke shouldn't use them.

Friday's action is part of a sweeping FDA review intended to bring scientific scrutiny to the multibillion-dollar vaping

market after years of regulatory delays. Currently the U.S. market includes thousands of fruit- and candy-flavored vapes that are technically illegal but are widely available in convenience stores, gas stations and vape shops.

The FDA faced a self-imposed court deadline at the end of this month to wrap up its yearslong review of major vaping brands, including Juul and Vuse.

Those brands have been sold in the U.S. for years, awaiting FDA action on their scientific applications. To stay on the market, companies must show that their e-cigarettes provide an overall health benefit for smokers, without significantly appealing to kids.

"Based upon our rigorous scientific review, in this instance, the strength of evidence of benefits to adult smokers from completely switching to a less harmful product was sufficient to outweigh the risks to youth," said Matthew Farrelly of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. □

Most alerts from the NYPD's gunfire detection system are unconfirmed shootings, city audit finds

By **PHILIP MARCELO**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A gunfire location and detection system long used by the New York Police Department and other law enforcement agencies nationwide is sending police officers to respond to loud noises that don't turn out to be con-

firmed shootings 87 percent of the time, a city audit released Thursday has found. The low rate of confirmed shootings through ShotSpotter means police officers spent thousands of working hours responding to unfounded reports of gunfire, said New York City Comptroller Brad Lander,

whose office conducted the audit.

"The evidence shows that NYPD is wasting precious time and money on this technology and needs to do a better job managing its resources," he said in a statement. "Chasing down car backfires and construction noise does not make us safer."

Among other recommendations, the Democrat called for the city not to renew its contract with SoundThinking, the California-based company that developed ShotSpotter, unless a more thorough performance evaluation is conducted.

The NYPD paid the company more than \$45 million between 2014 and 2023, according to the comptroller's office. A three-year renewal reached in 2021 would bring the total contract amount to nearly \$55

million when it expires in December. The system utilizes more than 2,000 acoustic sensors to detect gunshot activity citywide.

A spokesperson for the NYPD referred to the department's response, included at the end of the audit.

The seven-page reply says, among other things, that the comptroller analysis fails to acknowledge that officers responding to ShotSpotter alerts serve as a form of crime deterrent simply by investigating the scene.

It also says its difficult for the department to determine exactly how many ShotSpotter reports result in a "confirmed shooting" as those are only ones in which shell casings, firearms, property damage, videos, witnesses, victims or other forms of evidence are also identified.

SoundThinking, in an emailed statement, said its reviewing the report but believes it is "gravely misinformed in its assessment of data and the value of ShotSpotter as a critical public safety tool."

The company argued that the comptroller's office looked at the wrong metrics and that system is not just accurate and effective but also saves lives in communities hit hardest by gun violence.

"It should focus on full awareness of gunfire as it occurs, rapid response, and most importantly, lives saved," the company said of the audit.

According to Lander's audit, unconfirmed shootings ranged from 80% to 92% of alerts during the eight months that his office audited the system between 2022 and 2023. □



Members of the New York City Police Department listen to a news conference, Jan. 4, 2017, in New York.

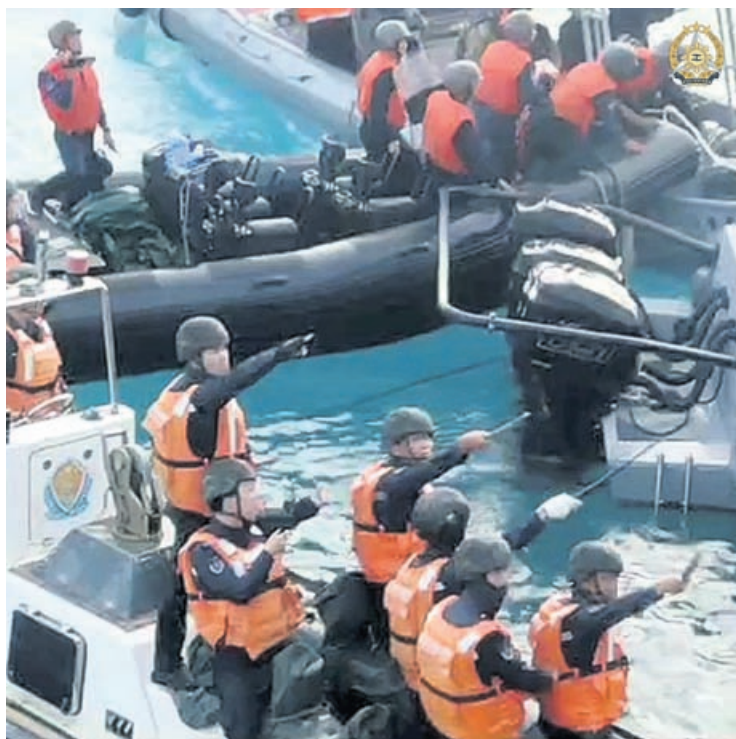
Associated Press

Philippines won't invoke mutual defense treaty with U.S. after Chinese confrontation at disputed shoal

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines said Friday it has no plan to invoke its mutual defense treaty with the United States after the Chinese coast guard reportedly rammed, boarded and used machetes and axes to damage two Philippine navy boats in a chaotic faceoff that injured Filipino navy personnel at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s key advisers made the remarks in a televised news conference, squelching speculation that Manila might consider invoking the 1951 treaty to secure U.S. military help after Monday's confrontation at Second Thomas Shoal, where the Chinese coast guard also seized Philippine navy rifles. The Philippine military chief condemned the incident, likening it to an act of piracy, and demanded that China return the rifles and pay for the damage. The territorial disputes, which involve China, the



In this handout photo provided by Armed Forces of the Philippines, Chinese Coast Guard hold knives and machetes as they approach Philippine troops on a resupply mission in the Second Thomas Shoal at the disputed South China Sea on June 17, 2024.

Associated Press

Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, have long been seen as an Asian flashpoint that could pit the U.S. against China if the high seas confrontations escalate into an armed conflict. Washing-

ton has repeatedly warned that it's obligated to help defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea.

"That has not been considered in our discussions," presidential assistant on maritime concerns Andres Centino said when asked if the Philippines was considering activating its treaty with the U.S.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin said the government did not consider the Chinese coast guard confrontation an armed attack as stated in the mutual defense treaty with the U.S.

"This was probably a misunderstanding or an accident. We're not yet ready to classify this as an armed attack," Bersamin said. "We saw bolo, axe, nothing beyond that."

In what critics may see as a concession to China, Bersamin said Marcos approved a recommendation for the government to publicize the schedule when navy personnel are deployed to transport food, water and other supplies to the Philippines' territorial outpost in the shoal. A small Philippine navy contingent aboard a long-grounded dilapidated warship, the BRP Sierra

Madre, has occupied Second Thomas Shoal since 1999 but China later deployed coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships in a territorial standoff that has become increasingly volatile.

During the hourslong confrontation at the shoal on Monday, Chinese personnel on board more than eight motorboats reportedly rammed and then boarded the two Philippine navy inflatable boats to prevent Filipino navy personnel from transferring food and other supplies, including firearms, to the Philippine ship outpost.

After a scuffle and repeated collisions, the Chinese reportedly seized the boats and damaged them with machetes, knives and hammers. They also seized eight M4 rifles which were packed in cases and other supplies and wounded a number of Filipino navy personnel, including one who lost his right thumb, two Philippine security officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday. □

International court unseals arrest warrant for Mali suspect accused of crimes in Timbuktu in 2012

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The International Criminal Court unsealed an arrest warrant Friday for a Malian accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the desert city of Timbuktu in 2012-13, where he is suspected of leading an al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremist group. The warrant for Iyad Ag Ghaly, also known as Abou Fadl, was originally issued under seal in 2017. It charges him with crimes including murder, rape, sexual slavery and persecution of women and girls on gender grounds.

It covers crimes in Timbuktu and an attack on a military base during which more than 40 Malian soldiers who

were not taking part in hostilities were executed, including some who had surrendered and others who were in the base's hospital, according to the French-language warrant.

The court said in a statement that there are "reasonable grounds to believe that he would be the undisputed leader" of Ansar Dine, the extremist group which held power in northern Mali at the time.

It was not immediately clear why prosecutors asked for the warrant to be unsealed now.

In a written statement, the court's prosecution office welcomed the unsealing and said the warrant for Ghaly "reflects the continued efforts of the Office to deliver justice for those

in Mali who fell victim to crimes that were committed since 2012," when Malian authorities asked the court to intervene.

"Today represents a further step forward in demonstrating that under international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute, the lives of all individuals have equal value and are deserving of equal protection," the prosecution office added. The Rome Statute is the court's founding treaty.

The prosecution office declined to comment on Ghaly's whereabouts.

The announcement came days before the court is scheduled to deliver its verdict in the trial of an alleged Islamic extremist who was tried on charges that he policed a brutal Islamic

regime in Timbuktu after al-Qaida-linked rebels overran the historic Malian desert city in 2012.

Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud is accused of being

a key member of Ansar Dine, an Islamic extremist group linked to al-Qaida that held power in northern Mali at the time. The judgment in his trial is scheduled for June 26. □



Fighters from Islamist group Ansar Dine stand guard in Timbuktu, Mali, Aug. 31, 2012, as they prepare to publicly lash a member of the Islamic Police found guilty of adultery.

Associated Press

U.N. chief warns of perils of 'weaponizing digital technologies' and malicious activity in cyberspace

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations chief warned Thursday that "the perils of weaponizing digital technologies are growing by the year" and malicious activity in cyberspace is on the rise by governments, non-government actors and criminals.

At the same time, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "the misuse of digital technology is becoming more sophisticated and stealthy, malware, wipers and trojans are proliferating" and cyber operations enabled by artificial intelligence are multiplying the threat. In addition, he warned the U.N. Security Council that "quantum computing could break down entire systems with its ability to breach encryption." On the positive side, Guterres said digital advances "are revolutionizing economies and societies," not only bringing people together but delivering news, information and education and enabling citizens to access government services and institutions.

But instant connectivity that powers enormous benefits is



U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres takes part in a press conference announcing the rebranding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to UN Trade and Development, marking its 60th anniversary, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Associated Press

also leaving people, institutions and governments vulnerable, he said.

Guterres said cybersecurity incidents have become "disturbingly common" from disruptions to health, banking and telecommunications services to "relentless illicit activity" including by criminal organizations and so-called "cyber-mercenaries."

The secretary-general also

pointed to "a legion of hate merchants littering the information superhighway with fear and division" and the increasing use of cyberspace as a weapon in conflicts. "And the growing integration of digital tools with weapon systems, including autonomous systems, presents new vulnerabilities," he said.

Guterres said software vulnerabilities are being exploit-

ed and ways to achieve this are even being sold on the Internet.

"Ransomware is one grievous example a huge threat to public and private institutions and the critical infrastructure people depend on," he said. "According to some estimates, total ransomware payments reached \$1.1 billion in 2023." But the U.N. chief said beyond these

costs such intrusions impact peace, security and stability within and among countries. "Malicious activity that undermines public institutions, electoral processes and online integrity erodes trust, fuels tensions, and even sows the seeds of violence and conflict," he said.

Guterres has been calling for global efforts to ensure that cyberspace and AI are regulated to ensure they are oriented to promoting responsible behavior of these technologies.

He has invited leaders of the 193 U.N. member nations to a Summit of the Future during their annual gathering at the General Assembly in late September, and he told the council it "represents a pivotal chance to support the maintenance of international peace and security in cyberspace."

He also welcomed the General Assembly's consideration of "the applicability of international law to state activities in this domain," and its efforts to reach consensus on a new cybercrime treaty in the coming months "which should deepen cooperation while protecting human rights online." □

4 members of a billionaire family get prison in Switzerland for exploiting domestic workers

By **JAMEY KEATEN**

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — An Indian-born billionaire and three family members were sen-

tenced to prison on Friday for exploiting domestic workers at their lakeside villa in Switzerland by seizing their passports, barring

them from going out and making them work up to 18 hours a day.

A Swiss court dismissed more serious charges of human trafficking against 79-year-old tycoon Prakash Hinduja; his wife, Kamal; son Ajay and daughter-in-law Namrata on the grounds that the workers understood what they were getting into, at least in part. The four received between four and 4 1/2 years in prison.

The workers were mostly illiterate Indians who were paid not in Swiss francs but in Indian rupees, deposited in banks back home that they couldn't access.

Lawyers representing the defendants said they would appeal.

Robert Assael, a lawyer for Kamal Hinduja, said he was "relieved" that the court threw out the trafficking charges but called the sentence excessive.

"The health of our clients is very poor, they are elderly people," he said, explaining why the family was not in court. He said Hinduja's 75-year-old wife was in intensive care and the family was with her.

A fifth defendant Najib Ziazi, the family's business manager received an 18-month suspended sentence.

Last week, it emerged in court that the family had reached an undisclosed settlement with the plaintiffs. Swiss authorities have seized diamonds, rubies,

a platinum necklace and other jewelry and assets in anticipation that they could be used to pay for legal fees and possible penalties.

Along with three brothers, Prakash Hinduja leads an industrial conglomerate in sectors including information technology, media, power, real estate and health care. Forbes magazine has put the Hinduja family's net worth at some \$20 billion.

The family set up residence in Switzerland in the 1980s, and Hinduja was convicted in 2007 on similar charges. A separate tax case brought by Swiss authorities is pending against Hinduja, who obtained Swiss citizenship in 2000. □



Lawyers of the accused, Nicolas Jeandin, left, and Robert Assael, right, leave the court house after a break in the reading of the verdict, during the trial against members of the billionaire Hinduja family, in Geneva, Switzerland, Friday June 21, 2024.

Associated Press

Aruba Birdlife Conservation warns about "rock stacking" practice reaching Baby Beach

Through a Facebook post, the organization Aruba Birdlife Conservation has raised an alarm about the phenomenon of "rock stacking" reaching the area of Baby Beach and warned about the dangers it poses, especially for children.

As known, "rock stacking" is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Experts warn that "rock stacking" could even lead certain species to extinction.

In Aruba, much of the "rock stacking" also occurs near



Arikok National Park. Although this activity is not illegal in Aruba, it may be time for park authorities to impose stricter regulations on this activity.

Tourists often believe that the meaning behind this activity is making a wish, but they do not realize its negative impact.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation's post not only raises alarms about the activity but also now that this phenomenon has reached Baby Beach, some of the stacked stone towers are up to 1.7 meters high, which can be very dangerous, especially for children. □

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more

than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of ed-



ucation or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair,

San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



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Meet our Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, **Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."**

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician. In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from august 1st, 1962, Padu's

many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi. In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several painting using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs). Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles. Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.



Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands. Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community. Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of

the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976. Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott Aruba Surf Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certifi-



cate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Danny & Mrs. Rosemary Joyce from Waterbury Connecticut, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their

home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's Safety.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- "Staff & Management at Marriott Aruba Surf Club"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

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Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa
Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors
The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar
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Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of

fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Department of Agriculture, Live-stock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:
Candelchi actually refers to

the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as Holocentrus adscensionis.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they

are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:
Candelchi are found on

reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □



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consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Michael & Mrs. Miranda Scala from Staten Island New York, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing

Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beach.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's Safety.
- "It's super easy to travel to Aruba"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired

by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also

encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign

The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital



Alonso de Ojeda

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to

what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was

born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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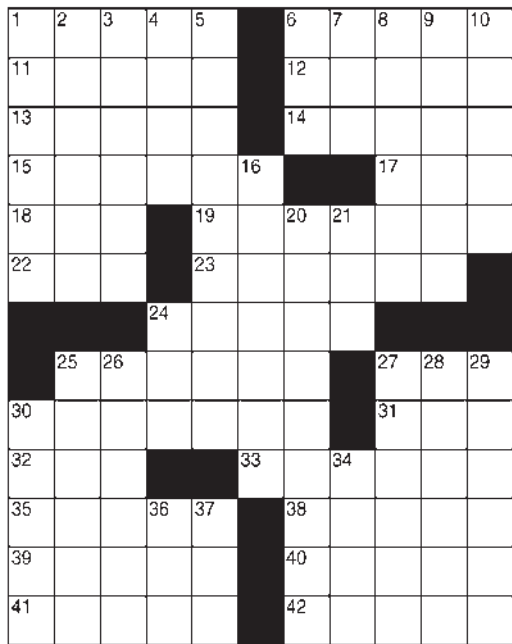
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36 Fall mo.

37 UFO

rock pilots



3-30

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

XJEP HXA DLP LPDC HXA

EDJ'Y KPEXRP AILPDC DMDTJ.

TY CDBYB VXL DCUDHB.

— RDLMPH UTCCTDRB, "YWP

QPCQPYPPJ LDKKTY"

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FIRST, THINK. SECOND, BELIEVE. THIRD, DREAM. AND FINALLY, DARE. — WALT DISNEY

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - June 25 2024

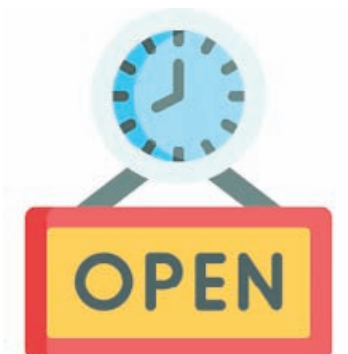
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SAT	01	NORWEGIAN JADE	10.00	20.00	C	1
THU	06	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	11	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	23.00	B	1
		ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON	07.00	15.00	B	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	18	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
TUE	25	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Newly named Washington Post editor decides not to take job after backlash, will stay in Britain



People walk by the One Franklin Square Building, home of The Washington Post newspaper, in downtown Washington, Feb. 21, 2019.

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Washington Post said Friday that newly named editor Robert Winnett has decided not to take the job and remain in Britain instead, another upheaval at a news outlet where a reorganization plan has gone disastrously wrong. The Post's CEO and publisher, Will Lewis, announced Winnett's decision to withdraw in a note to staff on Friday morning, and said a recruitment firm would be hired to launch a search for a replacement immediately. The financially struggling Post had announced Winnett would take over as editor of the core newsroom functions after November's presidential election, while it was also setting up a "third newsroom" devoted to finding new ways for its journalism to make money. Three weeks ago, then-executive editor Sally Buzbee said that she would quit rather than take a demotion to head this revenue-enhancement effort. Former Wall Street Journal editor Matt Murray was brought on as her interim replacement and future leader of the "third newsroom." Since then, several published reports had raised questions about the jour-

nalistic ethics of Lewis and Winnett stemming from their work in England. For example, both men worked together in a series of scoops about extravagant spending by British politicians fueled by information that they paid a data information company for a practice frowned upon by American journalists. The New York Times wrote that both Winnett and Lewis were involved in stories that appeared to be based on fraudulently-obtained phone and business records. It sparked a newsroom revolt at The Post. David Maraniss, a two-time Pu-

litzer Prize winner who has worked at the newspaper for four decades, said this week that he didn't know anyone there who thought the situation with the publisher and "supposed new editor" could stand. "The body is rejecting the transfusion," Maraniss wrote on Facebook. Lewis, a former Wall Street Journal publisher and vice chairman of The Associated Press' board of directors, started at The Post earlier this year, hired by billionaire owner Jeff Bezos to stem a costly exodus of readers. The Post had said it had lost \$77 million last year. In a memo to key staff

Associated Press

members earlier this week, Bezos assured them that journalistic standards and ethics at the newspaper would not change. "I know you've already heard this from Will, but I wanted to also weigh in directly," he wrote. "To be sure, it can't be business as usual at The Post," Bezos wrote. "The world is evolving rapidly and we do need to change as a business." In his Facebook note, Maraniss said that the issue for staff members is integrity, not resistance to change. To that end, it remains to be seen whether Lewis can gain staff support. Lewis said Friday that the recruitment firm and process for replacing Winnett will be announced soon. Winnett's sudden hiring — without any indication of an extensive search — had also rankled staff members. But Lewis also said that the reorganization efforts would continue. □



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Kibrahacha : Tel. 583 4908

San Nicolas:

San Nicolas: Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Editor

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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

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How Oliver Platt moonlights on 'The Bear,' while still clocking in at 'Chicago Med'

By HILARY FOX
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Timing is everything.

After nine years as Dr. Daniel Charles on NBC's "Chicago Med," Oliver Platt decided to flex his acting muscles, asking his agent if there was someone else he could play for a bit.

The first offer that came in? Uncle Jimmy in "The Bear." This was before FX's hot kitchen comedy-drama had been on air and no one knew that Christopher Storer's show would go on to be an award-winning, star-making smash hit.

"I felt like a guest for about five minutes on 'The Bear,'" says Platt.

"Maybe that just makes me lucky or just makes me good at insinuating myself into a situation, I don't know." And if anyone knows how to be a scene-stealing guest star, it's Platt. Three times he's been in the running for an Emmy Award after making a special appearance on a TV series, notably "The West Wing" and "Nip/Tuck."

Platt's most recent guest star nomination was for playing the mysterious Uncle on "The Bear" and he returned for seasons two and three as a fan.

"I didn't get to work in the



Oliver Platt poses for a portrait on Thursday, June 13, 2024, in New York.

kitchen the first season, I was so excited to meet them all," he says, noting that in 2022 his only scenes were with Jeremy White and Eban Moss-Bachrach (Carmy and Cousin, respectively.)

"My first day back on the set in season two, it was actually in the restaurant in the kitchen. And I literally was starstruck. And that's a wonderful scenario."

Uncle Jimmy is back once again, on June 27, for the third season of "The Bear."

On set Platt is called "Unc" and in New York, where he lives, the actor gets the occasional "Yes Chef," as he walks past.

He says spending more time with the money man, also known as Cicero, in new episodes might reveal a bit more about who he is. "It's so fun about the character in the way it's written. It's like you kind of never know what you're going to get like, the kindly, but mildly twisted father figure or the frickin' neighborhood

dude who wants his money back?"

"What you see is not necessarily what you get," he says.

Both "The Bear" and "Chicago Med" are set and shot in Chicago so Platt was able to work on them in the same day by walking the 200 yards between his two trailers.

"It's really fun," he says of pulling double duty. "It spices up the day," calling both shows "gifts" in his life. There was only one near-

miss when Platt was rehearsing an argument as Dr. Charles, but accidentally channeled the confrontational Chicago accent of Uncle Jimmy.

"The director was like, 'Oliver, what's that? What's that accent?'"

"It was very easy for me to drop into being Doctor Charles. I've been doing it for eight years, but Uncle Jimmy is relatively new and I think I was unconsciously preparing for the afternoon." Another nominated guest star appearance for Platt was as White House Counsel Oliver Babish on "The West Wing," where his character dishes out legal advice over seasons two, three and seven.

Speaking to writer/showrunner Aaron Sorkin before he got to set, he was told to make the role his own and interpreted it as permission to be a bit loose and spontaneous with the script only to quickly find out that was not the case.

"I'm not always so good at word for word, even when that's the rules. So ... there was a bit of hazing on 'The West Wing.'

I knew a lot of the cast members, and they would come by and tease me like, 'Don't worry, buddy, we all went through it.'" □

Associated Press

'Hawaii Five-0' fan favorite and UFC fighter Taylor Wily dies at 56



Actor Taylor Wily, also known as Teila Tuli, of "Hawaii Five-0," gestures to fans after throwing out the ceremonial first pitch before a baseball game between the Seattle Mariners and Texas Rangers in Seattle on June 14, 2014.

Associated Press

By KAITLYN HUAMANI
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Taylor Wily, a former sumo wrestler who became known for his role as confidential informant Kamekona Tupuola on both "Hawaii Five-0" and "Magnum P.I.," has died, his friend and a "Hawaii Five-0" producer both said Friday. He was 56.

"Hawaii Five-0" executive producer Peter M. Lenkov confirmed his death to The Associated Press and shared multiple tributes to the actor on Instagram, writing "I am devastated. Heartbroken" in a caption of a photo of the two.

KITV 4, based in Honolulu, was the first to report Wily's

death on Thursday. Additional details about the cause remain unknown. TV and radio personality Lina Langi said on the show "Island Life Live" that she announced the news "with a heavy heart," as Wily was a friend.

Lenkov, Wily's longtime friend and collaborator, shared a second post later on Thursday with a video montage featuring photos and clips with Wily. He wrote, "You charmed me into making you a regular... on the show... and in my life. You were family. And I will miss you every day, brother."

Wily played Kamekona on "Hawaii Five-0" from 2010

through 2020 and became a fan-favorite. He continued in the same role with the reboot of "Magnum P.I." and made a memorable appearance as a hotel worker in the 2008 comedy "Forgetting Sarah Marshall." Before he began acting, Wily, born Teila Tuli, was a well-known sumo wrestler and UFC 1 fighter. He became the first knockout victim in UFC history in 1993 when opponent Gerard Gordeau's kick knocked a tooth clear out of Wily's mouth, ending the fight after just 26 seconds. He is survived by his wife, Wily is survived by his wife, Halona, and their two children. □

Cue the duck boats: Boston salutes Celtics' record 18th NBA championship with parade

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The Celtics entered the season vowing to turn recent playoff heartbreaks into happiness. Eight months later, they toasted the franchise's 18th championship in what has become the signature Boston celebration, joined Friday by a huge crowd for a duck boat parade to mark the 13th championship won this century by one of the city's franchises in the four biggest U.S. sports leagues.

The Celtics, Patriots, Red Sox and Bruins have all commemorated championships by jumping aboard the duck boats — amphibious vehicles usually ridden by sightseeing tourists.

In Boston, firing up the boats for a slow cruise down city streets has become synonymous with its feeling of sports supremacy. Friday's parade was the latest component of what has been a rolling salute to the Celtics since they finished off the Dallas Mavericks in five games in the NBA Finals on Monday night. Starting at TD Garden, the procession lasted about 90 minutes, turning first onto Causeway Street in front of the arena, past City Hall, through Boston Common, down Boylston Street and ending at Hynes Convention

Center. Along the way, there were plenty of moments for the city to salute a franchise that just broke a tie with the rival Los Angeles Lakers for the most titles in league history. Fans marked the moment by hanging on light posts, flashing homemade signs or standing on subway entrances.

"It's unbelievable. It still doesn't seem true. But just trying to stay in the moment," All-Star Jayson Tatum said during a pre-parade rally at the Garden.

Celtics owner Wyc Grousbeck gave fans an early treat about 90 minutes before the trade began.

He was attempting to drive to the arena with the Larry O'Brien Trophy and newly made 2024 championship banner along with his wife, Emilia Fazzalari, and their daughter.

They couldn't get through because of traffic and barricades. So they walked a half-mile down Causeway Street, passing by a sea of fans while carrying the trophy and banner.

Inside the Garden, the rally included players and their family members, members of the Celtics organization, arena staff, season ticket holders and guests including Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey and Boston Mayor



Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum celebrates the team's NBA basketball championship during a duck boat parade Friday, June 21, 2024, in Boston.

Associated Press

Michelle Wu.

After celebrating in the locker room Monday night by spraying Champagne and posing for pictures with the trophy, the team flew to Miami for a private party.

When the Celtics returned Wednesday, coach Joe Mazzulla took the party back to people, allowing fans to see the trophy up close — and in some cases touch it — while he carried it through Boston's famed North End.

"I drove all the way from Ohio (Wednesday) because we were coming for the parade," Celtics fan Jason Hawkins told Boston's ABC affiliate, WCVB-TV. "I touched trophy, man. I got video of it."

The golden basketball was on display for all to see Friday as players, flanked by Celtics personnel and members of their families, waved and

interacted with fans.

The Celtics broke every huddle this season by saying, "Together."

Jaylen Brown said Friday the theme for this year's team was unity.

"Whatever it took for us to win, that's what I was willing to do," Brown said.

As much as the day was a celebration of that team-first mantra that Mazzulla championed this season, it was also the culmination of mission that stars Brown and Tatum began after each was drafted third overall — Brown in 2016 and Tatum a year later.

The duo made it to four conference finals and one NBA Finals — a loss to the Golden State Warriors in 2022 — before finally reaching the league pinnacle. Brown earned Finals MVP honors,

which he said also belonged to his "partner in crime."

While the city had to wait nearly two decades for this celebration, the Celtics are in a solid position to try to become the NBA's first back-to-back champions since the Warriors in 2018.

All five starters — Tatum, Brown, Jrue Holiday, Derrick White and Kristaps Porzingis — are under contract for next season. After having secured long-term extensions with Brown, Holiday and Porzingis, the Celtics are expected to do the same with Tatum and White this summer.

Reserve Luke Kornet didn't let fans forget the Celtics' history of titles, leading fans on a count from one to 18 at the end of the parade route.

Their message to the city is clear: Keep the duck boats gassed up. □

A'ja Wilson and Caitlin Clark lead WNBA All-Star fan vote

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A'ja Wilson leads Caitlin Clark by just over a thousand votes in early fan voting for the WNBA All-Star Game, the league announced Friday. Clark's Indiana teammate Aliyah Boston is third, about 40,000 votes behind the leaders.

Wilson is having an incredible season, averaging 27.9 points and 11.3 rebounds. She has 217,773 votes. Clark is right behind with 216,427. The Las Vegas Aces star received the most fan votes

last season, but that total was only 95,860.

New York's Breanna Stewart is fourth and Dallas' Arike Ogunbowale is fifth. Chicago's Angel Reese is seventh in the voting and is the only other rookie in the top 10. Fellow first-year players Cameron Brink and Kate Martin were just outside the top 10 in 11th and 12th.

Sabrina Ionescu of New York (sixth), Kelsey Plum of Las Vegas (eighth), Napheesa Collier of Minnesota (ninth) and Dearica Hamby of Los Angeles (10th) round out the first 10.

The All-Star Game will be played on July 20 in Phoenix and will pit WNBA All-Stars against the U.S. Olympic team.

All-Stars are picked by a combination of fan vote (50%), current WNBA players (25%) and media (25%). After voting closes, the top 10 vote-getters will be named as All-Star Game participants, with any players competing for the U.S. on the Olympic team staying on their team. The remainder of the WNBA team will be chosen by the league's coaches from a pool of the



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark reacts after scoring against the Seattle Storm during the first half of a WNBA basketball game, May 30, 2024, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

next 36 highest vote-getters, which must include 15 post players and nine guards. Coaches aren't allowed to

vote for their own players. The final WNBA All-Star Game rosters will be announced on July 2. □

Reds, Brewers, Nationals are on pace to post highest stolen-base totals of any MLB team since 1990s

By STEVE MEGARGEE

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Cincinnati's Elly De La Cruz understands how much of a distraction he causes to opposing pitchers whenever he gets on base.

"It seems like they get a little bit nervous right there when I go out there," De La Cruz, who has a major league-leading 37 steals, said through a translator. With De La Cruz leading the way, the Reds are stealing bases at a rate unseen over the last three decades. And the Milwaukee Brewers and Washington Nationals are right on their heels.

No team this century has stolen more than 200 bases in a single season (the 2007 New York Mets had exactly 200). The Reds, Brewers and Nationals are all on pace to blow past that mark as they capitalize on rule changes put in place last year to help spur the running game. Cincinnati has 107 steals through its first 74 games and is on pace for 234. That would represent the highest total for any team since the 1992 Brewers had 256, according to Sportradar. The NL Central-leading Brewers have 104 steals through 75 games and the Nationals 101 through 74 games. That puts the Brewers on pace for at least 224 and the Nationals on track for 221. No team has finished a season with over 201 steals since the 1993 Montreal Expos had 228.

"As the saying goes, speed never slumps," Brewers outfielder Blake Perkins said. "It's always something we've got in our back pocket."

Major League Baseball increased the size of the bases from 15 square inches to 18 square inches last year and ruled pitchers could only disengage from the rubber to call timeout or attempt a pickoff throw twice per plate appearance.

Those rule changes led to 3,503 stolen bases last year the highest total since 1987 and a 41% increase over 2022 — plus an MLB-record success rate of over 80%. The success rate has dropped to 78.4% this year, but MLB



Cincinnati Reds' Elly De La Cruz scores ahead of the tag by Milwaukee Brewers' William Contreras during the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 16, 2024, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

teams had combined for 1,653 steals through Thursday — 70 more than there were at this date last year. "They got what they wanted," Brewers first-base coach Quintin Berry said. "They wanted (stealing bases) to be a lot easier. They wanted more action on the basepaths. And with the rules and the bags and everything else, it's more in line for base stealers. I wonder if they're going to ever do anything to try to counter that, because it's getting so high now, but I know fans are loving it, so probably not."

While the Reds are building off what they did last year, when they had an MLB-leading 190 steals, the Brewers and Nationals got much more aggressive this season. The Brewers ranked 11th in the majors with 129 steals and the Nationals were 12th with 127 in 2023.

No other teams had more than 77 steals heading into Friday's games.

"Giving up one of your 27 outs on the bases is a no-no, you know, in the era where one pitch can change a game with a three-run homer," Brewers manager Pat Murphy said. "There's a lot of risk in it. You've got to be willing to do it. Maybe teams like ours are willing to risk. You've got to have the personnel to emphasize it and get good at it."

Nationals manager Dave Martinez said last week he believes the Nationals can keep up this stolen-base pace but noted that they need to do a better job of picking their spots.

"I don't want to take away our aggressiveness because it's our identity," Martinez said. "It's who we are. We have to do that. We don't have those guys in the lineup hitting 30, 40 home runs. We have to push the envelope somehow and move the baseball. With that being said, we've had a lot of conversations the last few days about when to run, when not to run."

Reds first base coach Collin Cowgill says stealing bases now isn't as easy as it was last year because teams are trying harder to contain the running game. Cowgill said Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitchers went to a slide-step whenever the Reds put a runner on base against them.

"That just didn't happen last year," Cowgill said. "I think people are definitely doing a better job defending it. Catchers are more aware of it. Their stances are a little taller. They're ready to throw more. The leg isn't kicked out as much. I think people have done a much better job this year of controlling it and paying attention to it more so than last year, which makes sense."

But it hasn't made much of a difference.

According to Sportradar, all of MLB started tracking the number of times a runner was caught stealing in 1951. Since then, no team has stolen at least 200 bases with a success rate of over 81.3%. This year's Brewers have been successful on nearly 86% of their attempts. The Reds have converted 81% of their stolen base tries. The Nationals have been caught stealing an MLB-high 34 times and have been successful on three-quarters of their attempts.

Milwaukee players credit Berry's scouting reports for helping them make sure they go at the right time.

"We have a lot of guys who are fast and athletic and can run," said Brewers second baseman Brice Turang, whose 26 steals rank second in the majors. "It's part of the game. You've got to take advantage of it and help your team win."

"Even guys who maybe aren't as fast are stealing bases too, trying to get good jumps."

That's the case with all three teams atop the stolen-base charts. For instance, Washington's Jesse Winker entered this season with three steals in 610 career games. He's swiped 11 bags already this year.

Washington has five players with at least 10 steals: Jacob

Young (17), Lane Thomas (16), Winker, Trey Lipscomb (10) and CJ Abrams (10). The Brewers have four players with double-digit steals: Turang, Christian Yelich (15), Willy Adames (10) and Perkins (10).

Cincinnati has De La Cruz on pace for 81 steals, which would represent the highest total for any MLB player since 1988. The Reds have two more players with double-digit steals (Spencer Steer with 12, Jake Fraley with 11) and five others with at least six. These three teams don't have anyone with more than 12 homers, so they're finding other ways to generate offense. The Brewers' 5-4 victory over the Reds on Sunday was a classic example. In the third inning, De La Cruz drew a two-out walk, stole a base and scored all the way from second on an errant pickoff attempt. Four innings later, Turang reached on an infield hit, stole second, advanced to third on a poor throw and scored on Yelich's bunt single.

"Just different philosophies for different teams," Cowgill said. "We're more get on base and cause some chaos. So are the Brewers. So are the Nationals. I just think (it's about) the way your team is built. If we had a 50-home run guy in the middle of the order, we might be less likely to steal bases when that guy's at the plate." □